

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/785,010

Examiner

Tuan V. Thai

Applicant(s)

KOMATSU ET AL.

Art Unit

2186

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 11/16/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 3 and 6 renumbered as 1 and 2 respectively.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

TUAN V. THAI
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Art Unit: 2186

Attorney's Docket No.: 614.1639D2DDD1

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND
TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of: Komatsu et al. **Group:** 2186
Serial No.: 10/785,010 **Examiner:** Tuan Thai
For: **METHOD OF WRITING, ERASING, AND CONTROLLING MEMORY FOR
 MEMORY DEVICE.**

1. This action is responsive to amendment filed November 16, 2006. Claims 3 and 6 are now allowed. Claims 1-2 and 4-5 have been canceled.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

 The prior arts of record do not teach nor suggest, *either alone or in combination*, **all** the limitations of the amended claims (claims 3 and 6) of the current invention. The prior arts of record do not teach nor suggest a method for managing a memory device, wherein the memory device comprises a memory area comprising at least one flash memory and a controller for controlling data writing to the memory area, the method comprises

Art Unit: 2186

sending from a host computer to the controller a size of data to be written from the host computer to the memory area, estimating a length of time to be required for writing the data into the memory area on a basis of the size of the data and conditions of the memory area by the controller, wherein the conditions indicating at least whether data evacuation is necessary; estimating electric power required for writing the data on a basis of the length of time; and checking whether the data can be written into the memory area by using available electric power (claim 3). In addition, the prior arts of record do not teach checking whether the data can be written into the memory area by using available electric power after the electric power is determined of claim 6. In light of the foregoing, claims 3 and 6 of the present application are found to be patentable over the prior arts.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

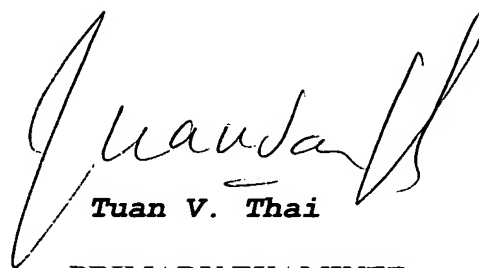
3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan V. Thai whose telephone number is (571)-272-4187. The examiner can

Art Unit: 2186

normally be reached on from 6:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mathew M. Kim can be reached on (571)-272-4182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TVT/December 10, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tuan V. Thai', is written over a horizontal line.

PRIMARY EXAMINER

Group 2100